Agricultural Export Policy

3818. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers comprising the Agriculture, Food Processing, Finance, Commerce and Industry as well as SSI, who were asked to work out an Agricultural Export Policy, have so far held any meeting; and

(b) if so, what are GOM's recommendations on export promotion-scheme for agriculture sector and on how to give a fillip to our farmers by filling the critical gap by linking them in international trade now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Group of Ministers has not yet completed its deliberations, nor made any conclusive recommendations.

Agricultural reforms

3819. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring about agricultural reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of agriculture and allied activities. The Government has announced National Agriculture Policy on 28th July, 2000 which seeks to actualise the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural

infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalisation. The Government has already taken several fiscal, financial, programmatic and administrative measures for welfare of farmers and development of agriculture.

Support price of wheat

3820. SHRI C.R.A. MACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the support price of wheat in this season because the prices of inputs have gone up;

(b) if so, the extent to which prices would be increased;

(c) the reasons for delay in announcement of support price; and

(d) by when an announcement in this regard is expected to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for the 2000-01 season to be marketed in 2001-02 @ Rs. 610 per quintal, which marks an increase of Rs. 30 per quintal as compared to the MSP fixed for the last season.